

What's On

April 2026



Diary Dates

28 March we open

Women in War. Acting on the feedback we recorded during the two months we were open in 2025 that women were under represented in our displays, we are replacing the large panel that hides the door to the stairs and at the moment features a large picture of the Rushes the morning after the Zeppelin bombing.



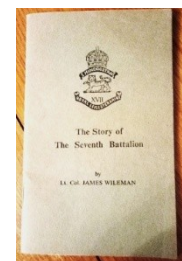
The new story board, I have seen the draft, is far more interesting and informative dealing with the [VADs](#) (Voluntary Aid Detachments), women at work and the widows of those killed. My thanks to Neil and Debbie who did the research and stories. It will be in place for our opening. It has cost us a great deal but that is exactly what the public make donations for.

Cap badges. In the March Edition of the newsletter, I suggested that we put a display of cap badges in the space behind the reception. The idea was firmly rejected by the other people who attend each Wednesday morning. The space will be used solely for the retail items.



At the moment there are a number of carillon related items, mostly of the souvenir ilk on shelves behind the reception area. They used to be displayed in a cabinet in the Clavier Room. It is likely these carillon related objects will go into two small wall mounted acrylic cabinets alongside the carillon story board. At the moment there are only two related carillon objects; the mallet used by Mrs Godber to lay the foundation stone and a bell clapper we have just carried down from the Clavier Room.

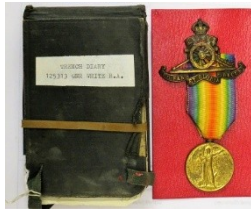
Chindits Memorial. A new memorial dedicated to the legendary Chindits who trained in the town of Formby during the Second World War has been unveiled. This story caught my eye because the Leicestershire Regiment was the only British regiment to have two battalions in Burma who fought with Major-General Orde Wingate's Special Force, the Chindits.



The 2nd Bn were a regular battalion who started the war in Palestine and had fought in North Africa and the ill-fated campaign in Crete before being sent to India and from there to Burma. The 7th Bn were a battalion formed in WW2 and were engaged in defensive duties on the east coast when they were uprooted and found themselves in the jungles of Burma. At the end of the campaign what was left of them were amalgamated into the 2nd Bn and the 7th disbanded. After one epic march through the mountains and jungles of Burma Wingate sent a signal, "**Well done the Leicesters, Hannibal eclipsed**".

Events in Charnwood. This is a council website that gives details of various events in the area. I have added our opening times to it. See ...[Events | Discover Charnwood](#)

Gunner William White's Diary. A little amiss of me in that I have only just got around to



reading [Gnr White's Diary](#) that was transcribed by Neil. He is to be congratulated on an impressive piece of research, with excellent footnotes which help to explain what William was doing during his time in WW1. There is however one footnote I have to comment on 'No 45.

The use of the title Mr is mysterious. I, of course, cannot know about forms of address and practice in either WW1 or the Royal Artillery but in my experience, it was that 2/Lts, when being referred to as a third party were called 'Mister' rather than using their rank as in "*I spent the day with Mr Baxter*".

Victoria Cross Collection. Lord Ashcroft's collection of Victoria Crosses and George Crosses is to have a new home at the National Army Museum in London. The collection is the largest of its kind in the world. It has been built up by Lord Ashcroft over the past 40 years and includes nearly 250 VCs and a smaller number of GCs. It was previously housed at the Imperial War Museum, London, which closed the Lord Ashcroft Gallery in September last year after 15 years.

I once visited the Imperial War Museum (IWM), an incredible place with some of the best museum displays I have seen. However, two things disappointed me, the first was after my visit I emailed them to ask if we could have a copy of a video they had showing on a loop, they never replied.



The second was Ashcroft's collection: it was in a separate room and in my humble opinion was poorly displayed, certainly not to the standard of the rest of the IWM. 250 sets of medals with an object label alongside each one. There is a school of thought in the museum world, 'Less is More' a single medal in a cabinet has more impact than many medals. A school of thought that whoever set out the Ashcroft collection did not subscribe to.

I have also visited the National Army Museum. What strikes you is how unassuming the building is after visiting the IWM - perhaps the same architect who designed John Storer House? The displays and stories within are incredible, our connection? The horse trapped on the first floor of the carillon was given to us by the National Army Museum.



The New brochure. We have an agreement with Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) whereas they pay for a quantity of brochures each year. Because of the changes we have seen over the last few years we needed a completely new brochure. Although CBC would pay for the printing we had to pay for the artwork.

I want to express my gratitude to Debbie who took on the challenge of producing the new brochure, writing the text and liaising with the person who produced the artwork and composition, the printers and CBC.

Imperial War Museum. Subject Specialist Network. Link [Update](#) we are on the mailing list.

On this Day. Sometime ago Goff managed to produce a list of all Loughborough's casualties in WW1 in chronological order with a link to the Roll of Honour and the man's story. I have used it to occasionally post an 'On this Day' story on Facebook but I am always disappointed by the engagement of our followers. I would get more response if I posted a photograph of my dinner.



However, it occurred to me that we could put each month's casualties on a board at the entrance and when I produced the list of April's casualties I was impressed by how effective it is in showing just how many men died on each day. On reflection it perhaps needs some colour so in future I will add some poppies.



Next month, May, will include the Leicestershire Yeomanry (LY) casualties on 13 May 1915 at the Battle of Frezenberg. 14 men are listed as dying on that day and I believe 13 of them were Loughborough LY men. I will come up with a way to highlight them. To this day the LY Association and the unit, now part of the Royal Yeomanry, gather on the Sunday closest to the 13 May at the church in Newtown Linford for a service followed by a wreath laying ceremony at their war memorial in Bradgate Park. Read more about about the Battle of Frezenberg [Leicestershire Yeomanry : Frezenberg](#)

BBC Leicester Podcast. Karon alerted me to this podcast that BBC Leicester are doing regarding history around the county. The old Rectory will be in a future episode and she sees no reason why the Carillon couldn't be featured in the future.



If anyone is interested in pursuing this, I have the contact email of Ben Jackson at BBC Leicester. Here is a previous Podcast. The WW2 building that housed the 'Beambender'.

At one time I worked in Coalville and drove past this building every day, the image is the view from the road. It was obviously military but even when I visited it I could not work out what it was for. A few years later a gentleman published an article in which he explained what a Beambender was and the role it played in defeating the intentions of German bombers in WW2. The podcast: [BBC Radio Leicester - Secret Leicestershire, The secret RAF base which foiled the Nazis](#)

Finally. As there is space left at the bottom of this page, I will relate a story told to me by a young man.



His grandfather had served with the 7th Leicesters' in Burma, in charge of a mule called Biscuit, (their larynx was cut to prevent them from braying). One day he was urging it up a steep hillside when it stood on his foot and ripped his boot off. The young man told me his grandfather had to spend the rest of the war with only one boot. I was just about to laugh when he added, "Wait it gets worse, at the end of the war the mules were left behind and the Burmese ate them". Mel 26.3.2026